



PROBABLY THE BEST SUPERHERO
COMIC BOOK IN THE UNIVERSE

21

INVINCIBLE™



KIRKMAN • OTTLEY • GRABTREE

WJG

image® COMICS PRESENTS

INVINCIBLE™

ROBERT KIRKMAN
WRITER

RYAN OTTLEY
PENCILER & INKER

BILL CRABTREE
COLORIST

RUS WOOTON
LETTERER

CREATED BY ROBERT KIRKMAN & CORY WALKER



IMAGE COMICS, INC.

Erik Larsen - Publisher
Todd McFarlane - President
Marc Silvestri - CEO
Jim Valentino - Vice-President

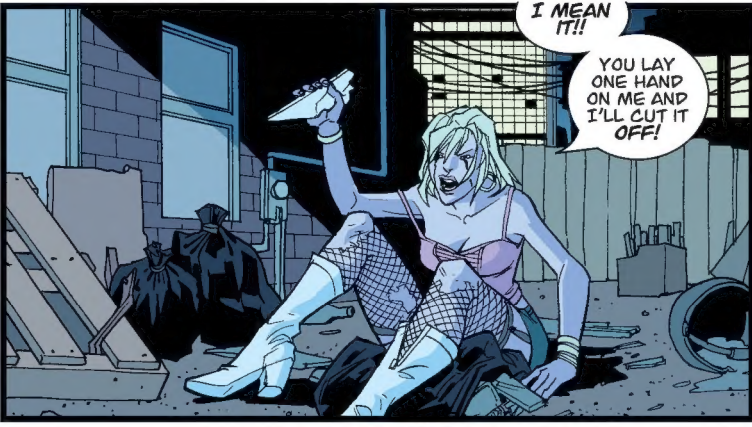
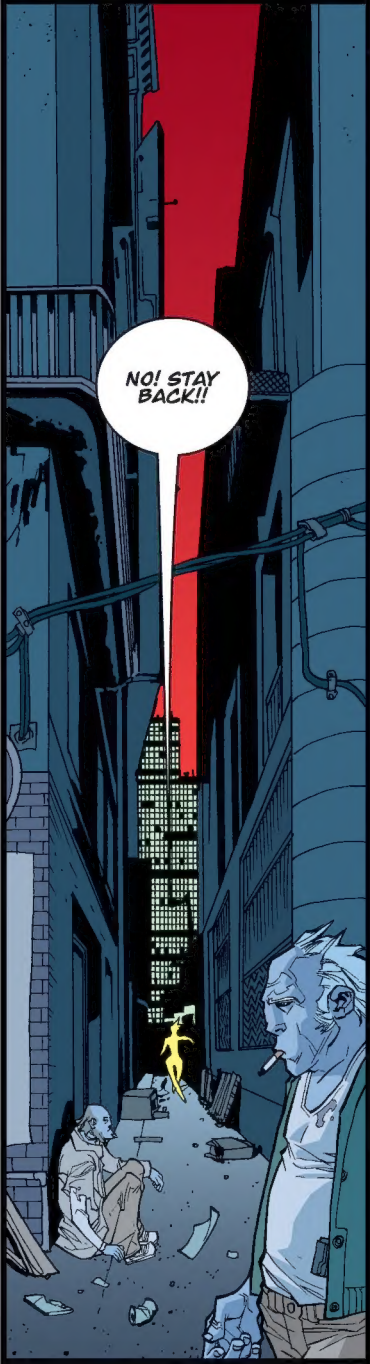
Eric Stephenson - Executive Director
Missie Miranda - Controller
Brett Evans - Production Manager
B. Clay Moore - PR & Marketing Coordinator
Allen Hui - Production Artist
Joe Keatinge - Inventory Controller
Mia MacHatten - Administrative Assistant

www.imagecomics.com

INVINCIBLE Vol. 1 #21. March, 2005. First Printing. Published by Image Comics, Inc. Office of publication: 1942 University Ave. Suite 305, Berkeley, CA 94704. Image and its logos are © and © 2005 Image Comics, Inc. All Rights Reserved. INVINCIBLE is ™ and © 2005 Robert Kirkman and Cory Walker. All Rights Reserved. The characters, events and stories in this publication are entirely fictional. No portion of this publication may be reproduced by any means without the expressed written permission of the copyright holder except for artwork used for review purposes.

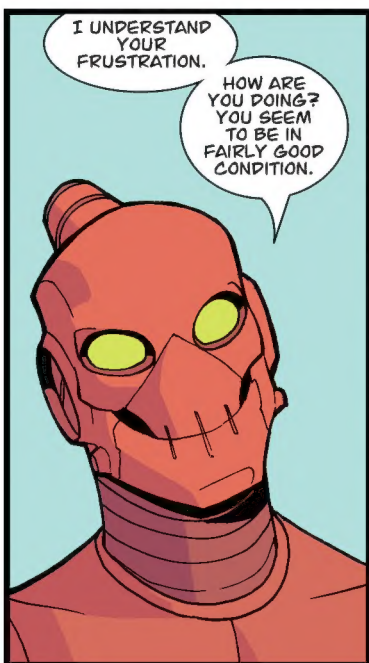
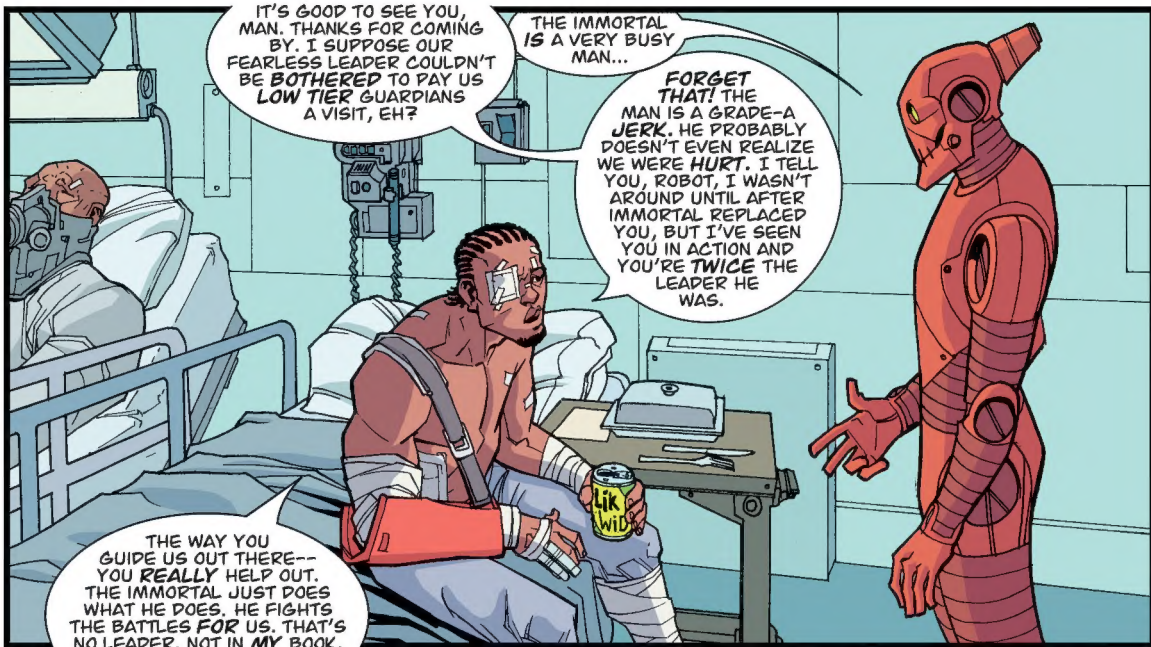
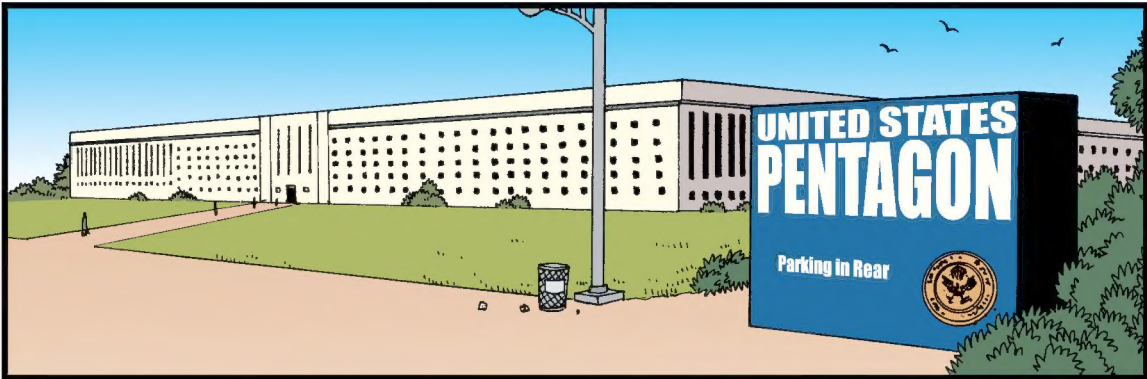
PRINTED IN CANADA

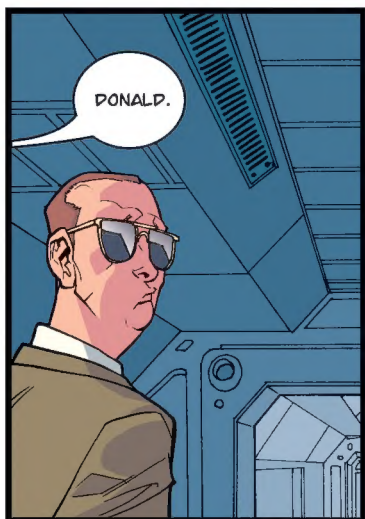






YOU
WILL
BE!





DONALD.

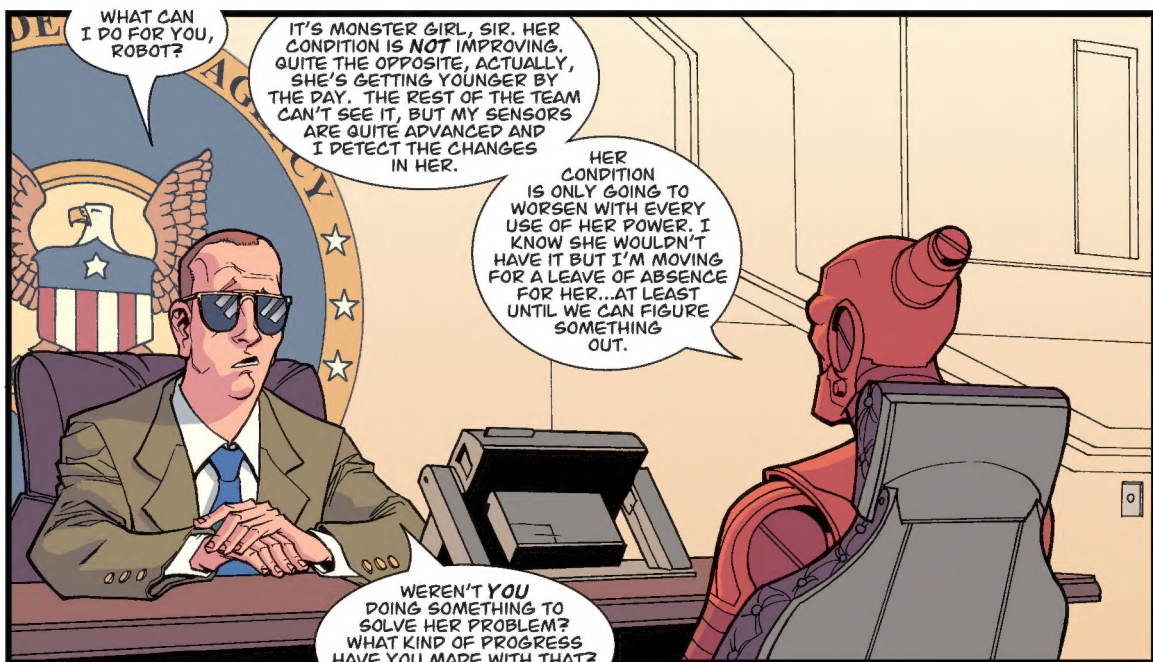


AH, ROBOT. I THOUGHT I HAD MISSED YOU.

NOT AT ALL. I WAS JUST MAKING MY WAY OVER HERE. YOU WANT TO GO TO YOUR OFFICE?



THAT WOULD PROBABLY BE BEST. FOLLOW ME.

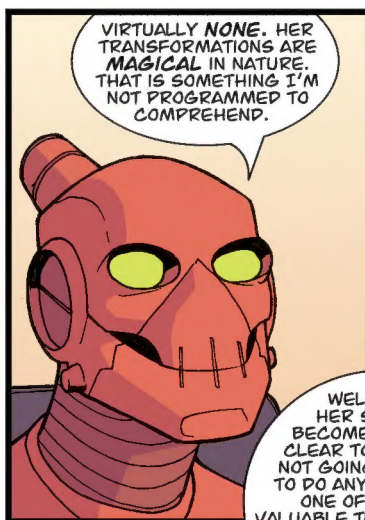


WHAT CAN I DO FOR YOU, ROBOT?

IT'S MONSTER GIRL, SIR. HER CONDITION IS **NOT** IMPROVING. QUITE THE OPPOSITE, ACTUALLY, SHE'S GETTING YOUNGER BY THE DAY. THE REST OF THE TEAM CAN'T SEE IT, BUT MY SENSORS ARE QUITE ADVANCED AND I DETECT THE CHANGES IN HER.

HER CONDITION IS ONLY GOING TO WORSEN WITH EVERY USE OF HER POWER. I KNOW SHE WOULDN'T HAVE IT BUT I'M MOVING FOR A LEAVE OF ABSENCE FOR HER...AT LEAST UNTIL WE CAN FIGURE SOMETHING OUT.

WEREN'T YOU DOING SOMETHING TO SOLVE HER PROBLEM? WHAT KIND OF PROGRESS HAVE YOU MADE WITH THAT?



VIRTUALLY **NONE**. HER TRANSFORMATIONS ARE **MAGICAL** IN NATURE. THAT IS SOMETHING I'M NOT PROGRAMMED TO COMPREHEND.

WELL, UNTIL HER SITUATION BECOMES VISUALLY CLEAR TO US, WE'RE NOT GOING TO BE ABLE TO DO ANYTHING. SHE'S ONE OF OUR MOST VALUABLE TEAM MEMBERS.



CECIL WON'T RELEASE HER, I'M SURE OF IT.



CAN I SPEAK WITH CECIL DIRECTLY?

UNFORTUNATELY, HE'S IN THE MIDDLE OF SOMETHING RIGHT NOW.



I NEED YOU TO RUN AN ERRAND FOR ME.



MIDNIGHT CITY. WE ABANDONED IT WHEN IT BECAME OVERRUN AFTER THE MIDNIGHT MAGICIAN CAST IT IN PERPETUAL DARKNESS. IT'S A NO MAN'S LAND. VOLUNTEER COPS, NO GOVERNMENT AID. THE POLICY HAS BEEN TO ACT LIKE IT NEVER EXISTED.

THE POLICY IS CHANGING.

THE PRESS SHINED A SPOTLIGHT ON IT AND NOTHING CAME UP ROSES. NOW THE PRESIDENT IS MAKING IT PRIORITY ONE TO RETAKE THAT ENCHANTED METROPOLIS. WE'RE PUTTING TOGETHER A GAME PLAN NOW.

OUR MAN FROM THE INSIDE IS REPORTING MULTIPLE DARKWING SIGHTINGS. THIS ISN'T LIKE THAT RED RUSH FIASCO IN RUSSIA. THIS IS THE REAL THING.

WE JUST--



SIR, CODE NINE. SWITCH TO MONITOR TWELVE.

HOLD ON A SECOND.



OH, FALSE ALARM, SIR. THE IMMORTAL IS ALREADY ON THE SCENE.



I'M BACK. SORRY FOR THE INTERRUPTION.

SO WHAT I NEED YOU TO DO IS GO TO MIDNIGHT CITY. TODAY, AND MEET UP WITH THIS NEW DARKWING. TRY AND GET SOME INFORMATION ABOUT THE CITY, SEE IF YOU CAN GET HIM TO CONTACT ME.

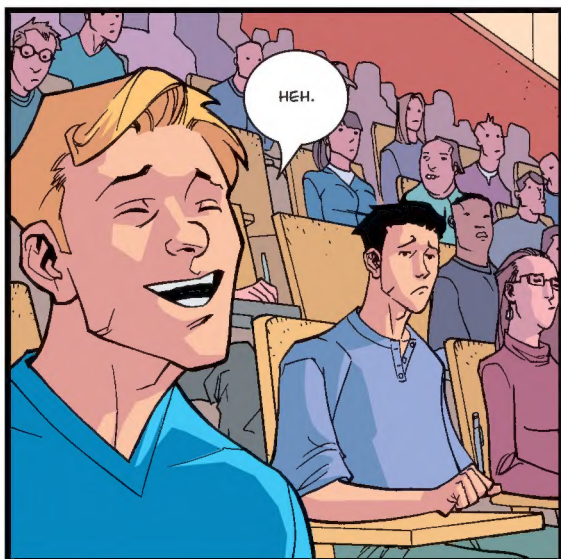


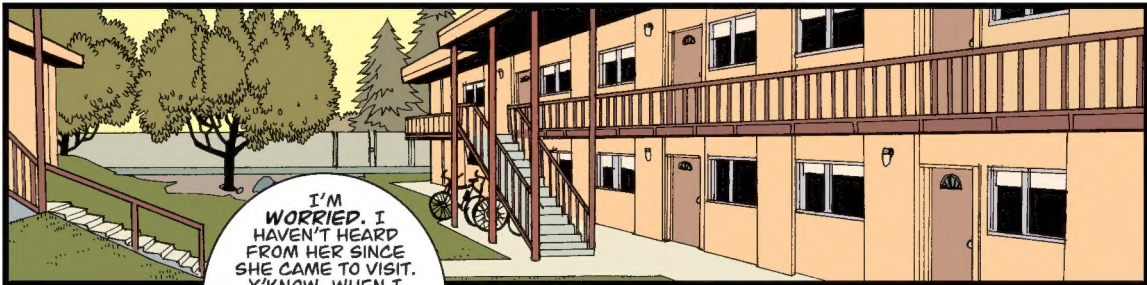
I JUST WANT TO MAKE SURE WE'RE ALL ON THE SAME PAGE WHEN THE PRESIDENT TRIES TO RECLAIM THE CITY.

GOT IT?



YES
SIR.





I'M WORRIED. I HAVEN'T HEARD FROM HER SINCE SHE CAME TO VISIT. Y'KNOW, WHEN I DITCHED HER TO GO FIGHT THAT BIG ROBOT THING? SHE THINKS I LEFT HER ALONE AND RAN FOR THE HILLS.



I'VE CALLED AMBER EVERY DAY FOR TWO WEEKS. I DON'T KNOW WHAT ELSE TO DO. I'M WORRIED-- I'M WORRIED THAT IT'S OVER.

WELL, SHE IS AT COLLEGE NOW. I'M SURE SHE'S GOT ALL KINDS OF OTHER GUYS AROUND TO KEEP HER BUSY.



WAS THAT TOO INSENSITIVE? YEAH, THAT WAS INSENSITIVE, WASN'T IT?

SORRY.

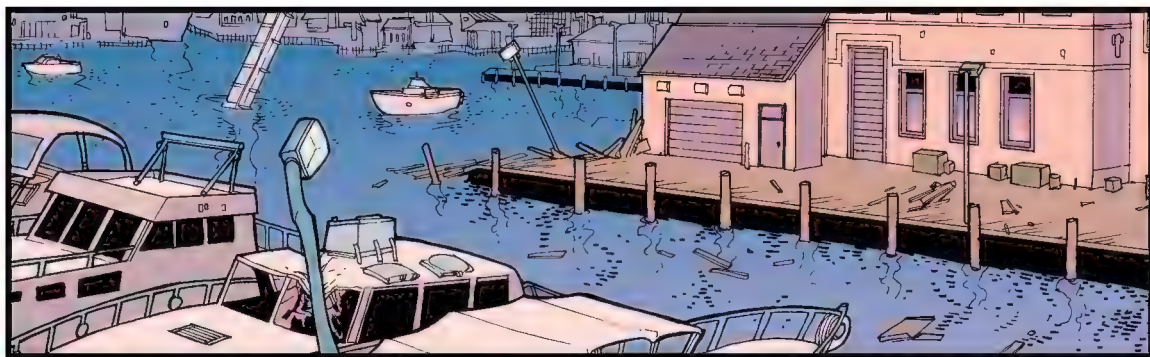


YEAH--THANKS FOR THAT. I'M GOING TO GO BEAT THE CRAP OUT OF A BUNCH OF BAD GUYS NOW.

I HOPE.

TELL EVE I SAID-- OH, SORRY. I FORGOT THAT SHE DUMPED YOU.

JERK.



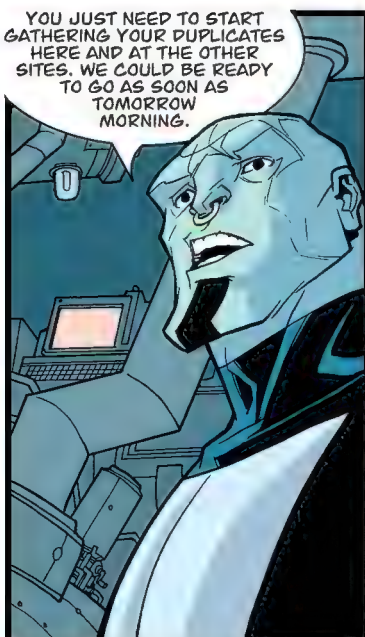
WHAT DID YOU WANT? YOU SAID YOU HAD SOME NEWS.

YES, ANGSTROM, I HAVE **NEWS**. **GOOD NEWS**. MY CLONE AND I ARE **DONE**. WE HAVE BUT A FEW MINOR COMPONENTS TO GET TONIGHT AND THEN WE'LL BE READY TO START THE PROCEDURE.

WE RAN OUT OF TRANSISTORS AND NEED A FEW MORE BEFORE WE CAN LINK ALL THE MACHINES IN THE VARIOUS DIMENSIONS.



THAT IS GOOD NEWS, MAULER.



YOU JUST NEED TO START GATHERING YOUR DUPLICATES HERE AND AT THE OTHER SITES. WE COULD BE READY TO GO AS SOON AS TOMORROW MORNING.



I'LL GET STARTED AT ONCE.

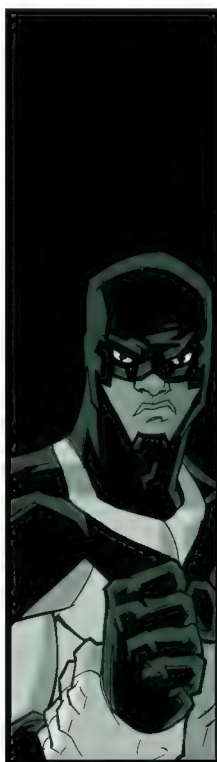
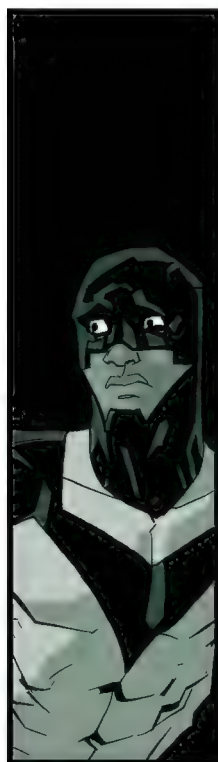




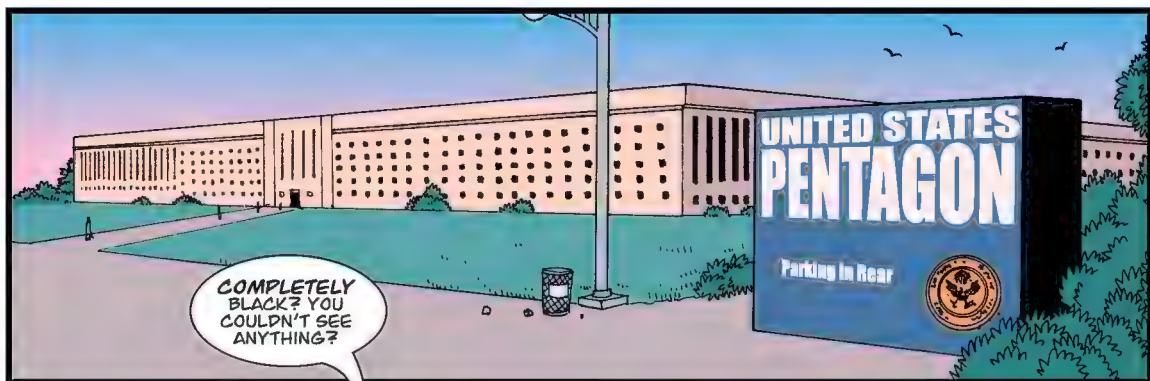


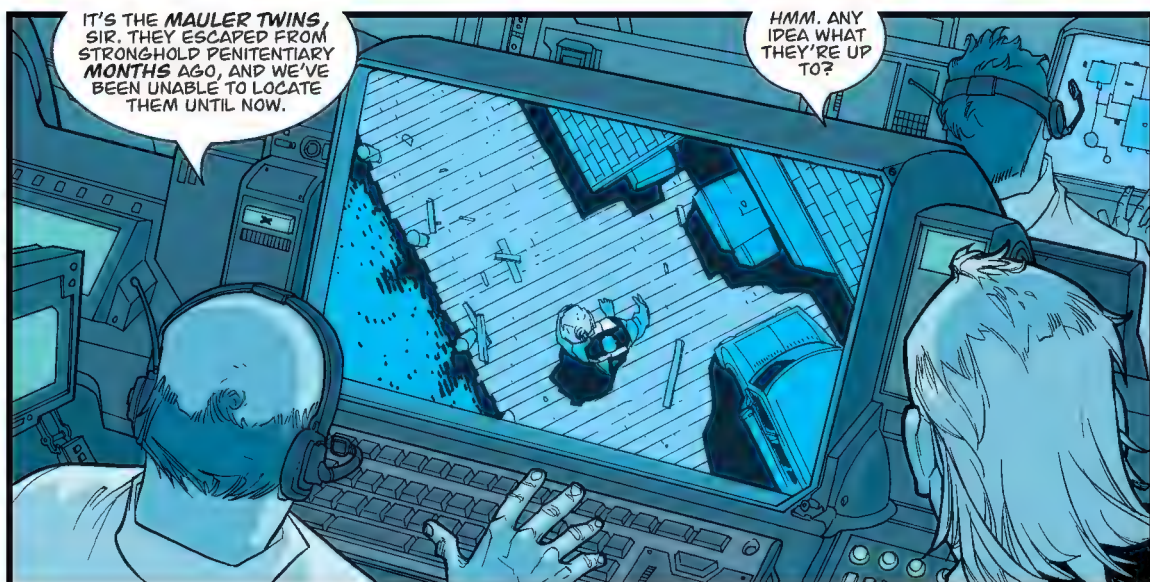
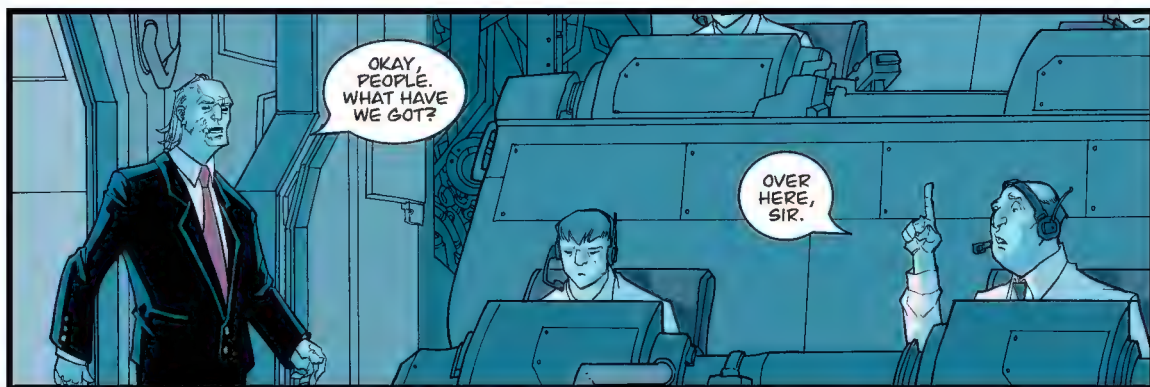


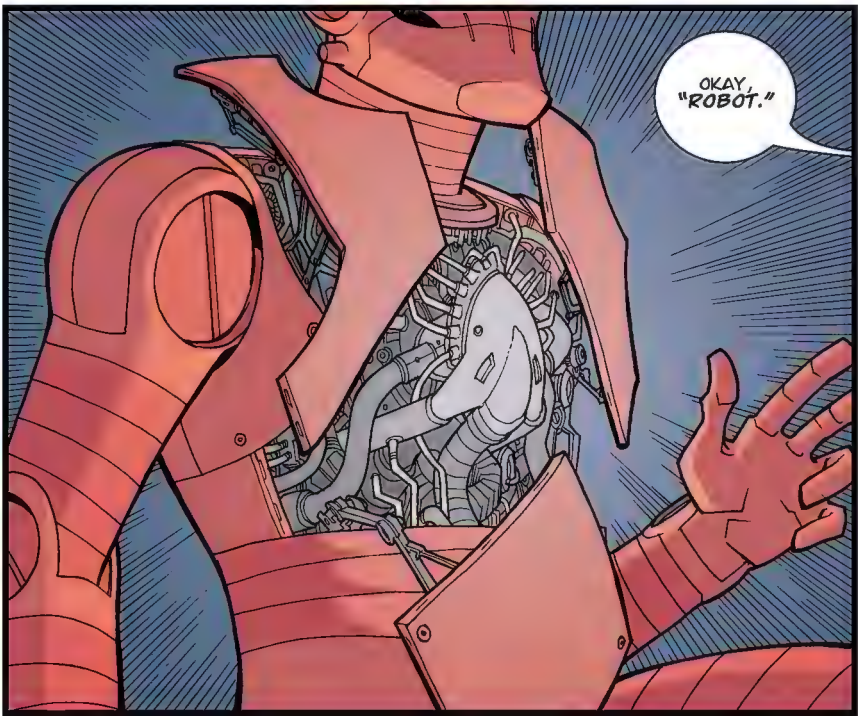
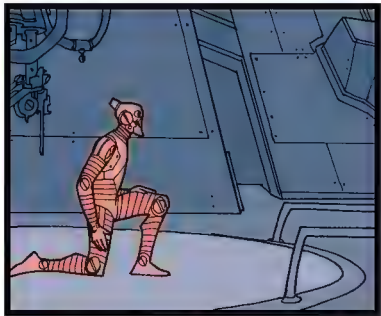
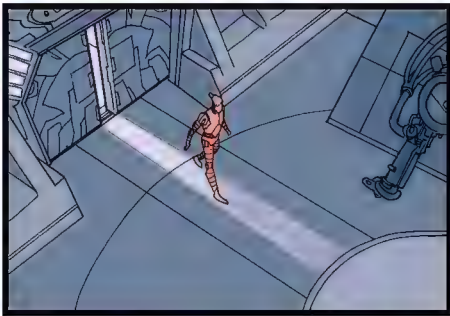
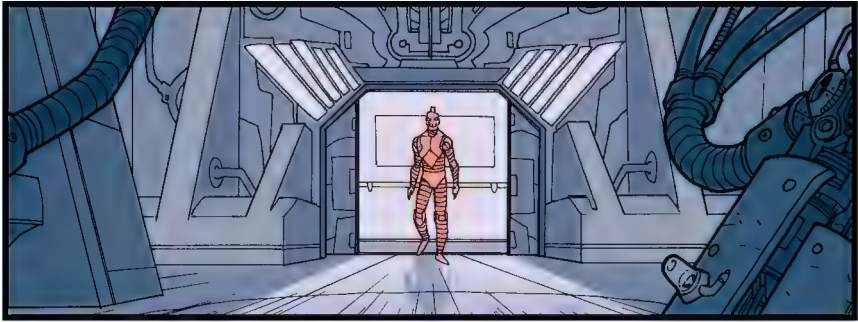
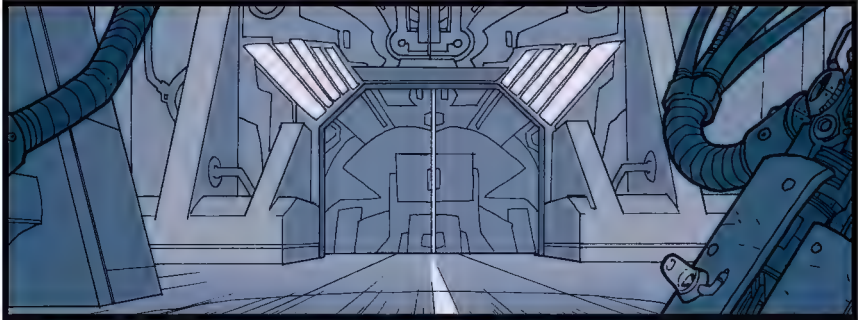
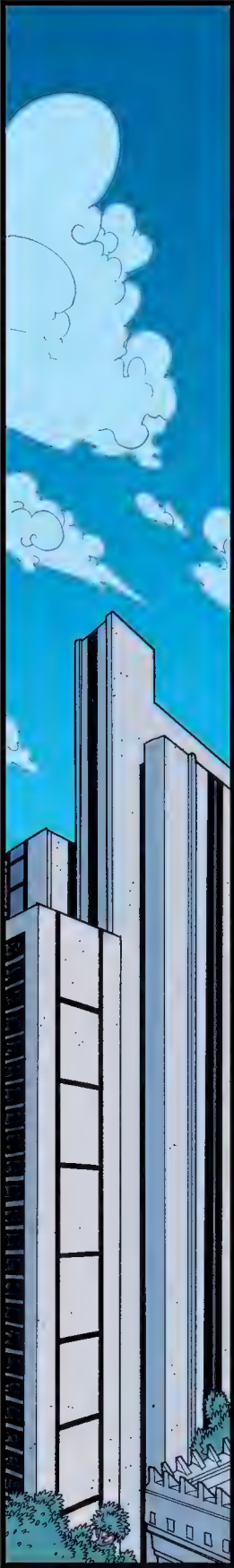


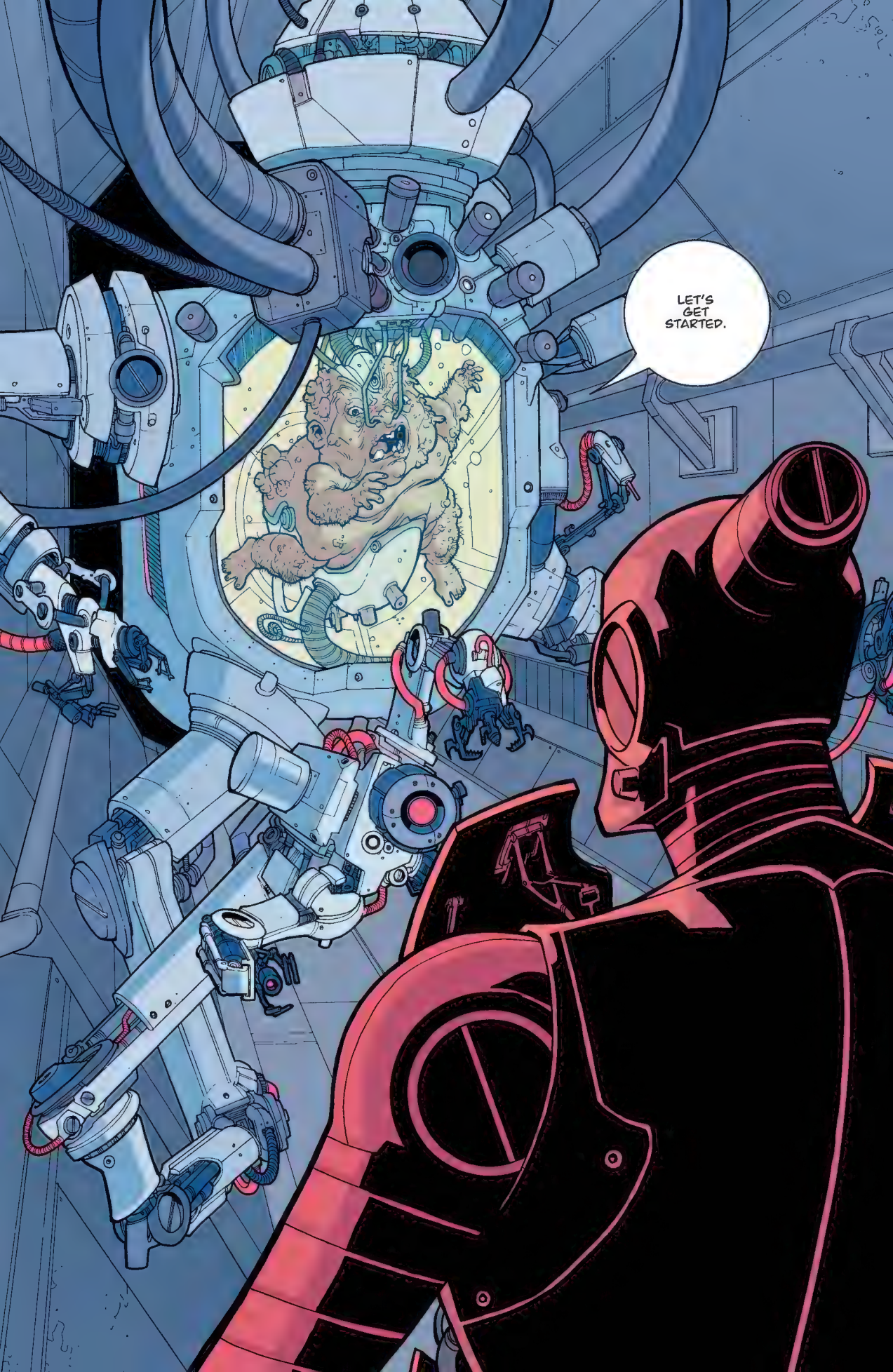




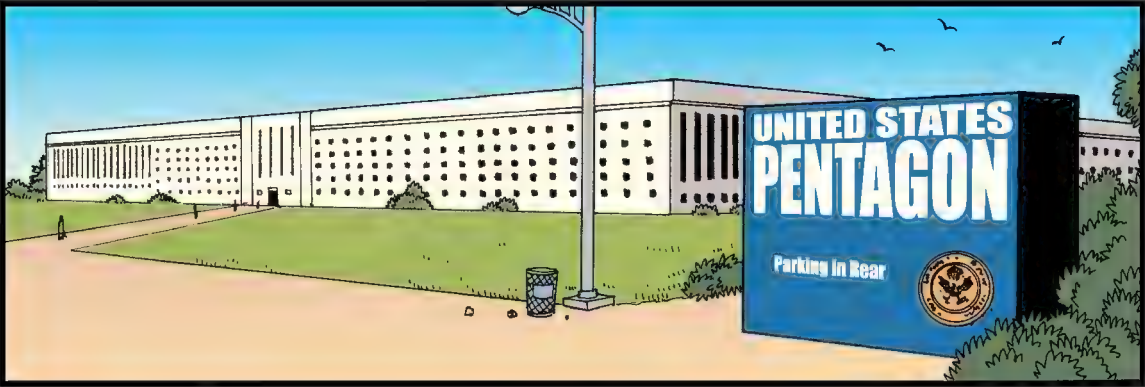








LET'S
GET
STARTED.



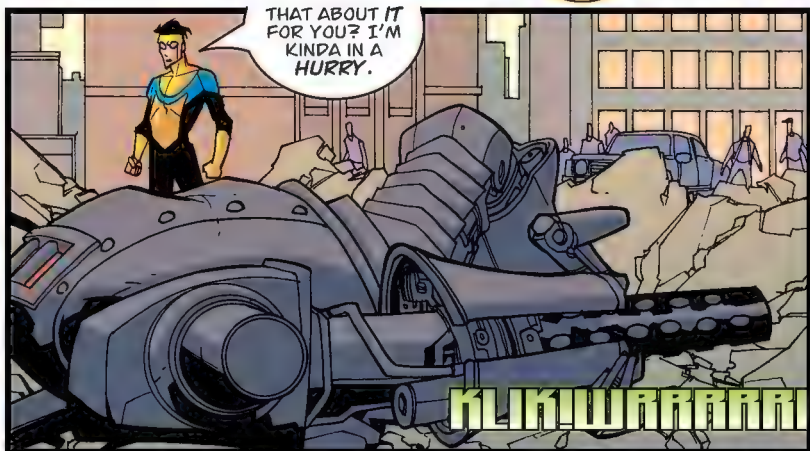
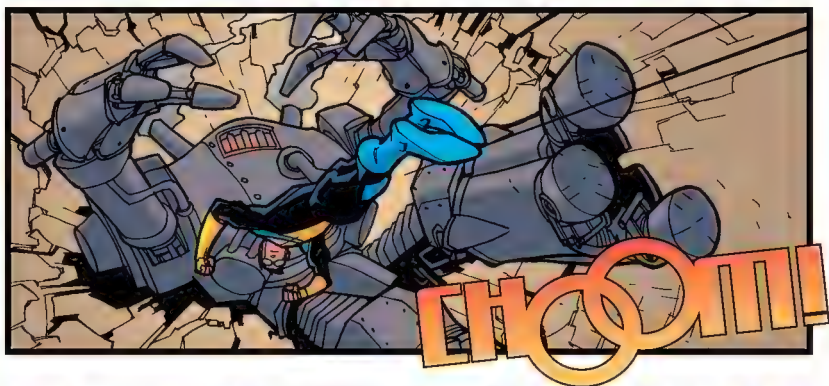
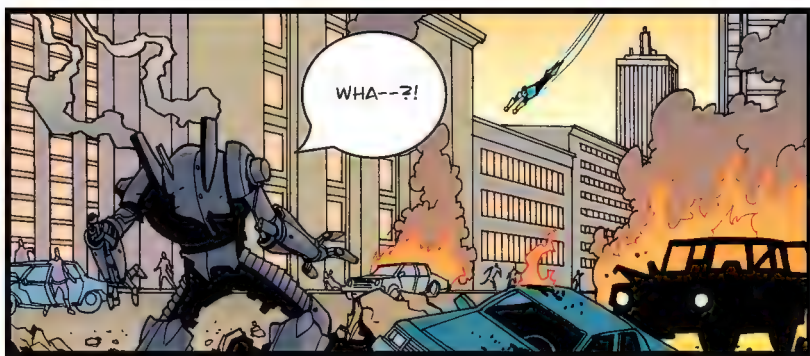
INVINCIBLE

ROBERT KIRKMAN
WRITER, LETTERER

RYAN OTTLEY
PENCILER, INKER

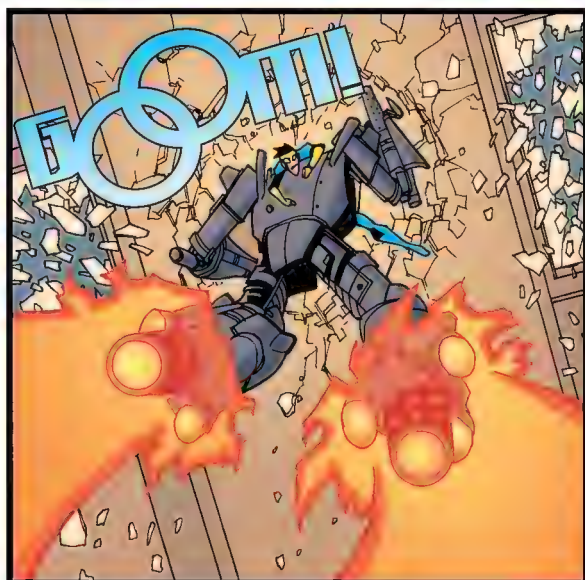
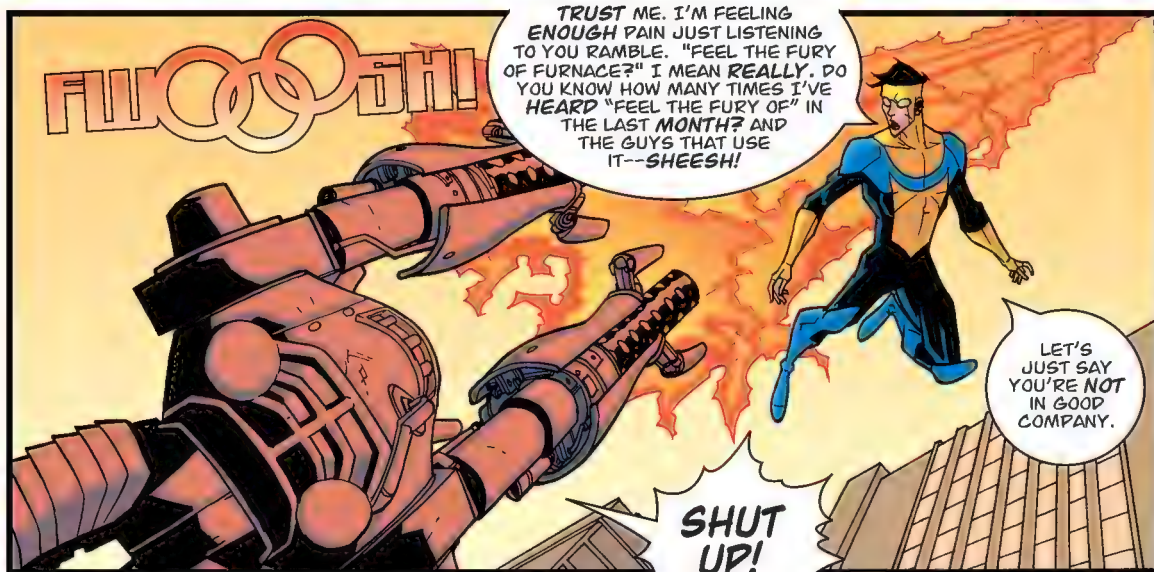
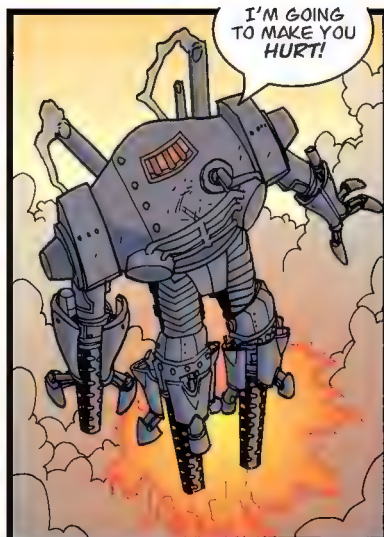
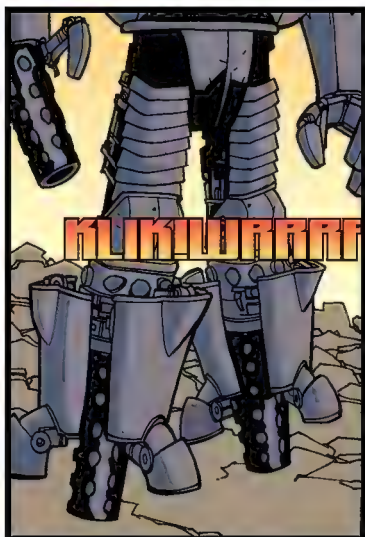
BILL CRABTREE
COLORIST

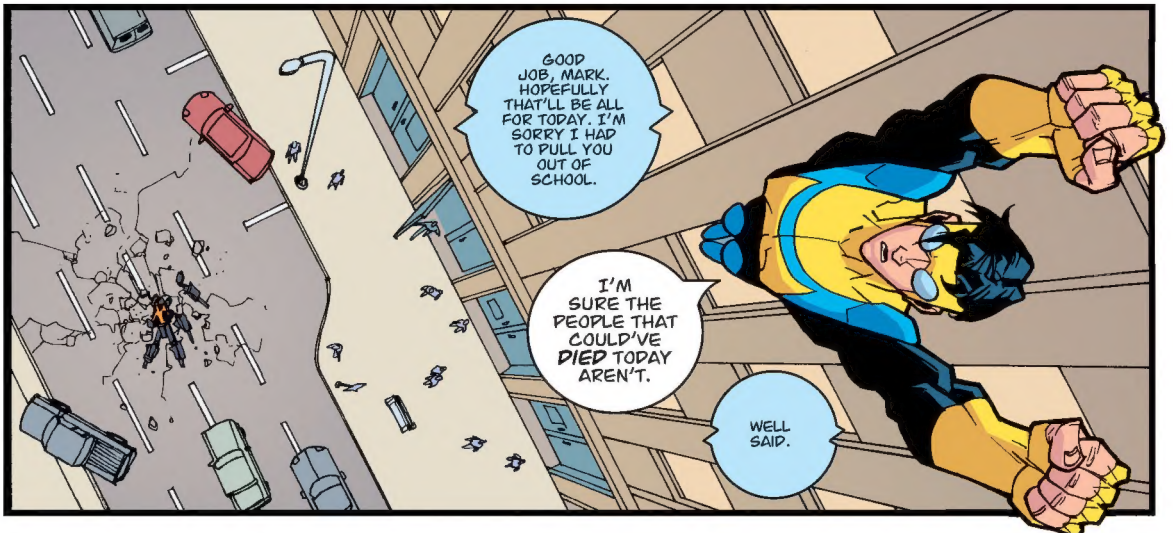
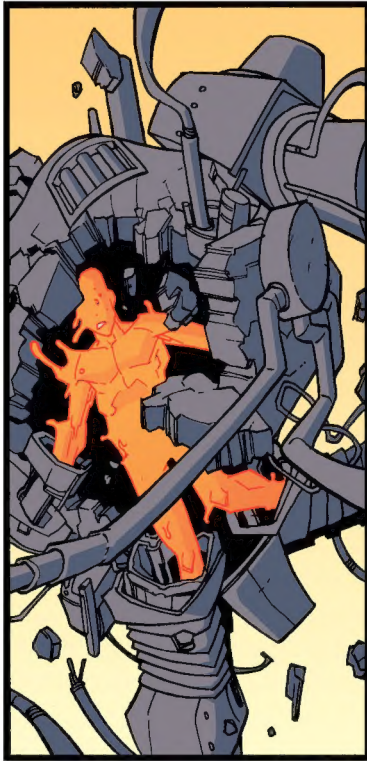
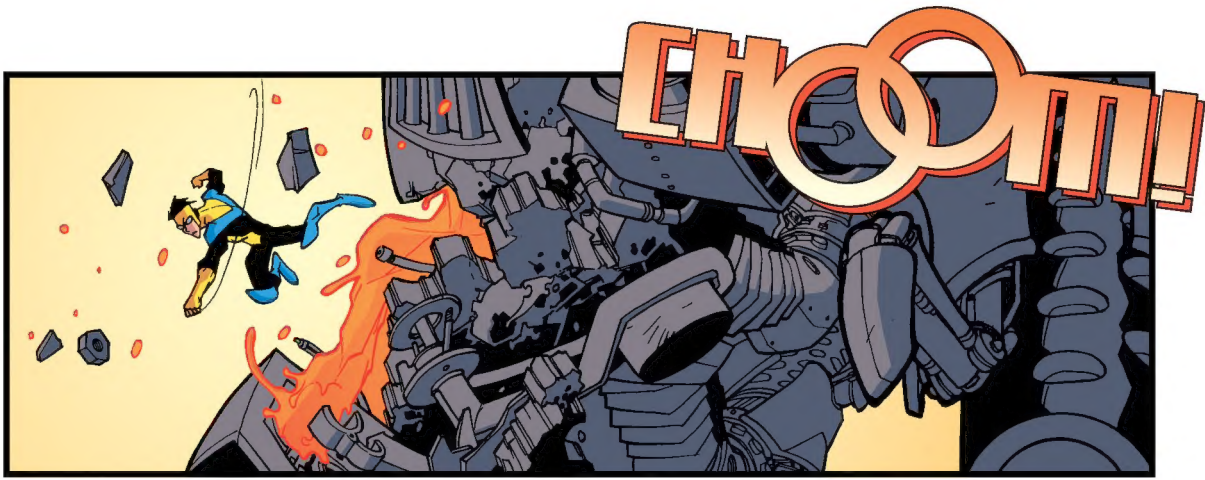
INVINCIBLE CREATED BY
ROBERT KIRKMAN &
CORY WALKER



FEEL THE
FURY OF
FURNACE!







INVINCIBLE
C/O FUNK-O-TRON
P.O. BOX 54386
LEXINGTON, KY 40505

INVINCIBLE@FUNKOTRON.COM

PEN VINCI PALS

Man oh man... Ryan and Bill did a bang up job on this issue, didn't they. I mean, they always do a good job but there's some stuff in this issue that makes me so happy to be working on this book. Thanks guys. You're really hitting your stride these days. I've got a lot to talk about, but I'll save that for the end, lets get some mail up in this berg.

Yo Robert Dude!

I have a few questions please answer as best you can!

1. Why are you always printing my letters is it because I think you are god?
2. How about a Savage Dragon cross-over?
3. Did Alex screw up my order at the comic store? I only got the 1st part of your savage mini.
4. Can u create a villian with my name to fight invincible? Rob Steal the Megalo-Klepto-Maniac. I promise not to sue your ass:)
5. Do you find more people named rob/robert/robbie/bob are sending you letters?
6. How about an Invincible annual? drawn by tony M? please please please please
7. Where does the free comic go in terms of numbers between which issues?
8. How come your not on wizards top ten are they stupid or what?
9. Do you have a web page with all your works listed I think I have everything but not sure
10. Are you planning on doing any cons? So I could stalk you

Ok that's it for me (this month) thanks for rocking my comic book world with all your works. Everyone should tell everyone to read this book! Everyone I got reading this book loves it! Keep up the outstanding job! I plan on quitting comic collecting if u ever die!

Rob Steal

1. Numbered questions, man. THAT'S how to get printed.
2. None planned at the moment but it's not out of the question.
3. Well, the second issue JUST came out. We're a bit late.
4. No.
5. I don't really pay attention to the names.
6. Tony's busy on about five books right now. I may do an annual at some point though.
7. 15 and 16. That's where it is in the TPB.
8. I'm just not good enough. Give me time. I'm really trying my best.
9. I will soon. www.robertkirkman.com may be live by the time this sees print, but I doubt it.
10. There's this rich widow I was thinking about getting to know but I'm so busy with comics right now I just don't know.

Hey Robert K:

I read your FF book and I'm liking the concept hard. If anyone BUT Reed had hypothesized the FF's fall in two years, there'd be no credibility, but coming from him adds a whole lot of weight to it. The execution of the Puppet Master's plan, as well as his own beatdown, were great: plenty of action with just a touch of funny. It's great to see Rathburne doing more stuff, but for some reason this didn't seem to be up to what I'm used to seeing from him. I wonder if it was performance anxiety, or if his stuff doesn't take to color as well.

Jubilee continues to be a fun read, even if it doesn't have much impact. I would have liked to see take a harder shot at the character. Seeing her among her peers really hit home the fact that she's matured faster than most her age, despite appearances, and seeing her help her peers set in stone that she's an X-Man now and forever, but I wanted to see her sweat a little. She's one of the many characters that rarely got a chance to flex any of her potential, or even really touch it. But hey, one more issue to go, I could be surprised!

MTU is coming along nicely. I love your method of using the threats to tie the characters and plots together. It's making a solid story with plausible ways of uniting characters that'd otherwise never meet. I loved the interaction between Dr. Strange and Reed; these two think in such different terms, and the way their statements bounce off each other just makes me laugh. And I want to know what that guy with the dead wife's all about.

Don't stop. Please.

Sincerely,
Ryan Walsh

What is this the Marvel Team-Up letters column? We don't talk about books from another publisher HERE. This is strictly IMAGE talk. Thanks for buying those books though. I think Fantastic Four: Foes and Marvel Team-Up are turning out GREAT! I even enjoyed working on Jubilee for as long as it lasted. If you kids out there aren't picking up my Marvel stuff, give it a shot. And hey, if anyone reading this is ONLY buying my Marvel stuff--dear lord, pick up INVINCIBLE or THE WALKING DEAD already!!

Dear PENvinciPALS,

Getting better and better by the issue, each one out doing the previous. The Invincible/Titan, Machine Head/Crew fight was great; nice to see Kursk and Fumce come back again. Battle Beast, Tether Tyrant, Magma/anic, gotta love it! It's good to see though where Marks' somewhat lack of experience plays in to things; it's not impossible to get one over on him and he's still got a lot to learn...but the G.O.T.G are always there to back him up!

And Titan getting the switch-up, didn't see that one coming; I'm sure we'll see more of him in coming issues. The books looking amazing as always, Ryan and Bill have been doing an awesome job! And Benito & Nate have some neat strips cooked up!

- 1) Looks like Debbie's headed straight for the local A.A meeting?
- 2) Eve & William broke up, Amber's getting pretty pissed, Mark/Eve yet?
- 3) Please tell me there's more plans for Battle Beast...he's Grrrrreat!

That's about all this time around, keep it up guys, still lovin it!

Invincible-O-Holic/Kirk-Maniac
-Mike Stornio

Thanks for the kind words, Mike. It's always good to hear from you.

- 1) Could be... or maybe not... who knows.
- 2) You think? I honestly hadn't even thought about it...
- 3) Definitely.

PenVinciPals:

Mark's really coming into his own, it seems. Between helping a new overlord of crime rise to power, getting ready for college, juggling the troubles of two women, and helping his mother through her own grieving process, it doesn't seem like there's anything he can't handle. Guess the moniker is ringing true, even if he does get his butt handed to him every so often. I can't wait to see what you guys come up with next. Keep it coming!

Sincerely,
Ryan Walsh

That's better.

Penvincipals.

I was just reading through all my invincible comics for the umpteenth time and noticed that in issue 16 someone named Bill Nolan wrote in and mentioned that he ordered some original Invincible art pages from Ryan Ottley. How does one go about this? I'm sure that if I had an original art page, or pinup, on my office wall it surely generate additional sales for Invincible as I'm sure that everyone would want to know where they could get more once they saw it.

I frequent four local comic shops, plus several more out of town shops as I travel for my work. Whenever I don't see any copies on the shelf, I always ask the store manager to buy more next month (I'm taking your advice to heart). I have been reading comics since the early 90's and *Invincible* has really hit home with me, some of the best writing I've seen in a while. I'm even coming through back issues trying to find any "early Kirkman" I can. You know (in alphabetical order), *Battle Pope*, *Capes*, *Cloudfall*, *Tales of the Realm*, and *Tech Jacket*. Love the new Marvel stuff as well.

Keep yourself busy writing and I will keep busy reading.

Cheers (I'm even asking in the UK),
Daniel Hollandbeck

You can contact Ryan at: ryan@unclewya.com with "original art" in the subject and he'll give you all the details on purchasing his pages.

OK TO PRINT

Ok fine, setup all ya want. Thinking about it again, I remembered the good old days of X-Men when Fabian Nicieza wrote on it back in the early 90's. Setup after setup it was and it was great, until he was pulled from the book. I suppose we won't have to worry about that here, so setup away. I like it that everything doesn't wrap up in a short six-issue arc. Same with Walking Dead. Sure they fit into a trade that can be seen as a sort of theme, but there's no real arc. This is the stuff I've been missing for a long time - just each issue continuing what happened last time without worrying about how each individual story will be stretched just enough to fit into that TPB.

The next part is for Ottley, so quit hogging the letter column and let him get some love. Ottley you freakin rock! You're pulling Kirkman along on this. Everything just looks great. You're character design for Machine Head's "Boys" was awesome. Loved Magnattack. Keep up the good work.

Ok, back to Kirkman. So good job on Machine Head's "Boys." Loved Magnattack... It was good to see the Guardians again too. Also, it's good to see our hero challenged. Battle Beast is a cool villain. So keep up the good

work and setup all you want. I'll be pissed though if you mention the third Summer's brother and then get kicked off the book. Cause we'll get stuck with someone like Mark Millar or Chuck Austen, and damn...

Lotsa love,
Chris Pitts

If I can make "story arc" a dirty word during my time in the comics industry, I'll be a happy man. You like Magnatack, huh? Well I'll STEAL that compliment from Ryan because I designed that guy myself! Ryan designed Tether Tyrant, Magmaniac, Battle Beast, and Furnace. Matt Roberts designed Kursk. No worries... I won't be leaving this book anytime soon, or probably EVER.

Mr. Robert Kirkman,

You've got to do more story on Battle Beast!!!!!!!!!!!!

What a guy!!

"You have nothing to offer me. You have been a pathetic waste of my time. Today is not a good day."

I've followed you since the Battle Pope Days. In fact you published my letter in one of the first or second issues of Battle Pope where I was telling you guys that you were great, you're going to hell, but you're great!!!

Walking Dead still has me reading it before anything in my bag because I MUST KNOW what's happening.

I really enjoy Invincible. I think I read somewhere that it's "probably the best superhero comic book in the universe!" Take that Fantastic Four!

I'm like so many others out here where I have my comic book guy giving me everything with your name on it.

Great everything you do.

I know you are now thinking this of me..."You have nothing to offer me. You have been a pathetic waste of my time. Today is not a good day."...so I bid you farewell.

Thanks for being there for us all. What were we doing before a creative force such as the Kirkman came along?

May Yeshua Bless You,
Brent Giles

This letter has nothing to offer me. You have been a pathetic waste of time. Today is not a good day.

Penvincipals,

With a lot of comics after 5 or 6 issues of most superhero books you can generally get a feel for how things are done and where things will go, but nearly twenty issues in and you still manage to surprise me. #19 is hands down my favorite issue so far: tons of new villains, the return of Furnace (my personal favorite), one of the best fight scenes I've read in ages, and Battle beast--outside of Nolan the first villain to really pose a threat to Mark. And good God, a shock ending that actually shocked.

My only gripe is more a general complaint. Often I find that the drama between the civilian characters falls flat or, more accurately, is defused very quickly. With the surprising amount of friction between characters of late (Mark and his girlfriend, William and Eve splitting, Mom's alcoholism) I'm hoping to see a lot of interesting stuff come out of it.

Anyhow, great job once again. Kudos to the much deserved ever-increasing sales. You guys are tied with Ex Machina for my favorite superhero comic. Keep it up.

David Cutler
Antigonish, Nova Scotia

PS>>>I'm going to keep asking for those Invinci-Pal chibi toys until someone starts producing them. Fair warning.

I'll do my best to not end the next personal drama thread abruptly... but I can't promise anything. I need room for all those cool fight scenes.

Robert "Comic writing machine" Kirkman

Ah ha!! At LAST a mistake I can write about. You said you wanted us to write in if you made a mistake and I caught one. On the cover of issue 19 (which was awesome by the way) it says "Probably" The Best Superhero Comic Book In The Universe. Such a HUGE mistake. It should say "Without A Doubt" The Best Superhero Comic. Sorry. Your books are too good. That's all I could find wrong with it. And Walking Dead, MTU and all the rest are top shelf stuff. Your books are some of the best reading out there.

Anyways, so much for Eve and William (don't call me Bill) like I suggested in my last letter. Thanks for printing it by the way, it was my first ever letter, now this is my 2nd, I see a pattern forming here. And Ryan Ottley's art still looks better every issue. It made me wish Eve was waiting for me in MY room, like she was for Mark. Hopefully she'll tell Mark she wants him. With the way things are with him and Amber it's for the best anyways. Eve knows his secret, can take care of herself and share in the heroics, and wouldn't stress out or have to be lied to if Mark needed to rush off. And she looks HOT. I blame that Ottley guy for this. And the story was awesome, as usual. I guess what made this 36 year old get off his ass and start writing letters is that your books are so cool and well written it actually makes you interested in the characters and their "lives". Very few writers can achieve that effect, but all you work, from the "oldies" Brit to Tech Jacket and your current ton of projects, really draw you into the story and characters and hold your attention.

Props on the FF Foes book by the way. It rocks. Invincible is my favorite

read, just passing out walking dead. And I laughed my ass off when Magmaniac melted the floor and fell thru. And I was actually surprised at the ending, which is rare in comics these days. But enough of the butt kissing and onto the questions.

- 1 So when will Mark's mom realize she is an alcoholic, or when will Mark realize it?
- 2 Will we see Battle Beast again? He was cool.
- 3 Will Eve go for Mark? (Jump at it Mark)
- 4 Will anyone ever find out one of the "astronauts" from the Mars trip is actually a Martian in disguise?
- 5 What happened to the real astronaut? Is he in prison on Mars being forced to watch re-runs of The Brady Bunch, a fate WORSE than death?
- 6 Will I get this letter printed? It was a blast seeing my 1st letter printed in issue 19.
- 7 Any Chance on your Marvelous other bosses letting you do something REALLY cool, like a Spider-Man and Invincible crossover or something like that?
- 8 Are we still banana splitting? Just wondering. See I read the letter cols.

Thanks for producing kick-ass top shelf comics that make the trip to the comic store something to look forward to again.
Keep up the good work.
Now get back to writing Walking Dead so I can see what's next.

John Pinkosky

Suck up.

1. Stay tuned.
2. Definitely.
3. Stay tuned.
4. Eventually.
5. He was the guy on the last page, covered with sequids.
6. It might.
7. We'll see. I'D love to do it.
8. No. We're not... or at least... I wish we weren't. Too many "banana split" emails.

Dear Kirkman,
I work at a comic shop and decided to pick up the invincible trades one day. After reading the first three volumes, I was left with my mouth wide open. This is by far one of the best super hero books I have ever read. It has the perfect blend of humor, action, character interaction, etc. This is what a super hero book should be, a book that is fun to read, doesn't take itself too seriously, and tells a good story. I loved the books so much, that the next day, my throat was sore from telling as many customers as I could how good this book is. I love what you're doing, and I hope it continues for a long time. Now I'm gonna go crazy while waiting for the next issue.

I also wanna thank you for Walking Dead. We have sold more copies of the Trade Paper Back then just about any other book in our store. It's a huge hit with our customers.

Keep it up,
Brad

You're welcome, man. Good to hear that you like the books. Keep on fighting the good fight.

Penvincipals,

I demand a rematch! Battle Beast can't just step out in the middle of a fight, they had him on the ropes!!

Forever in your debt for coming up with Invincible,
John Turner

HE'S COMING BACK!! SHEESH! Get over it people. No more Battle Beast emails--PLEASE!!

Okay, so that'll do it for letters this month.

A couple things to discuss. Coming in April we've got the 50 cent Invincible #0 issue. This is really just another issue of the book. It fits neatly between issues 22 and 23 (which it will ship between) and features a retelling of Mark's "origin." It's a great lead-in to issue 23 and could open someone's eyes to the ever-exciting world of INVINCIBLE. So tell your friends.

Also, coming in June, looks like we've got INVINCIBLE: ULTIMATE COLLECTION Volume 1. An oversized hardcover containing issues 1-13 of the series, along with all the extras from the TPBs and MORE. It'll be a measly \$34.95. Tell your friends.

In other news, Benito and Nate were killed at the end of their last strip. So they will not be returning... at least not in the pages of this book. They are both hard at work on a number of things, all of which will be announced in due time. One thing I'll go ahead and leak, just to be rude, is a Hector Plasm one-shot. That'll be out as soon as Nate finishes drawing it, which will probably be about two years from now. Tell your friends.

Also, for those of you that missed the Free Comic Book Day story from last some we're presenting it HERE in the back of the book! The only problem is that we don't have enough room for the whole thing--so we're running four pages in this issue and four pages in the next issue. But hey, you'll finally have it--you'll just have an odd break in the middle. It takes place between 15 and 16, just so you know. Tell your friends.

Also in this issue we've got pin-ups from:

1. Jared Bivens
2. Paul Renaud

That'll do it for this issue's letters column. I'll see you all back here next month. Um... tell your friends.

-Robert Kirkman

PROBABLY THE BEST SUPERHERO COMIC BOOK IN THE UNIVERSE

INVINCIBLE

MARK

MARK

AMBER

AMBER

ISSUE NUMBER 22

22

ROBERT

KIRKMAN

RYAN

OTTLEY

TWO KIDS AWAY AT
COLLEGE

NO PARENTAL SUPERVISION
ANYTHING CAN HAPPEN

BUT WILL IT?

MARCH

2005